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SENATE RESOLUTION 50
By Miller J

A RESOLUTION To designate Sunday, May 6, 2001, as "Newt Metzger Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary persons who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Newt Metzger is most assuredly one such extraordinary citizen who is richly deserving of this body's commendation; he has industriously and faithfully served the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church for over forty years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Metzger's commitment to God and Country dates back to his youth; after graduating from high school, he joined the United States Army during World War II and was commissioned as a second lieutenant from Officers Training School; he was sent to Japan with the first occupational forces and was honorably discharged after 3 years of courageous service; and

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WHEREAS, A sterling scholar, he returned to the University of Florida where he graduated with honors; in 1948, he moved to Cleveland and in the late 1950s began his organizational efforts for the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Newt Metzger first joined the Methodist Church at the age of 12 in his hometown of Lochloosa, Florida; when he moved to Cleveland in 1948, he attended the First Methodist Church, where he taught a youth class; active in the church's young adult group, he served as resident for the Cleveland District and represented the group at the Holston Conference for Young Adults; and

WHEREAS, In the late 1950s, Mr. Metzger volunteered along with other laymen from South Cleveland United Methodist Church, to help the District Superintendent M.C. Weikel and Rev. Jerry Anderson survey northwest Cleveland to find out if there was a need for another Methodist Church in the area; as a result of the survey, Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church was organized and Newt Metzger became Chairman of its first Building Committee; during the past 40 years, he has ably served on each building committee as the church continued to grow and enlarge its facilities; and

WHEREAS, He also taught Sunday School and served on various committees with the Methodist Men; he has been a lay leader on a local and district level, and was a representative to the Holston Conference for many years; he served on the district building and location committees, as well as treasurer of the district committee; he has also chaired the Evangelism Committee and has been a faithful participant of the church's weekly visitation program; and

WHEREAS, Newt Metzger's Christian leadership reaches far beyond the doors of Wesley Church; many know him as a strong supporter of the Gideons; he joined the Gideons in the early 1950s and became the first President of the local organization; he has held several offices in the organization and has faithfully promoted its Bible donation programs around the world; and

WHEREAS, A conscientious member of his community, Mr. Metzger is involved in many local organization and programs; he is a valuable member of the Rotary Club, boasting 23 years perfect attendance and is the recipient of the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship from Rotary International; he has twice served as Rotary president and has been active on various committees; he has led the community's United Way drive, taking it to a successful \$200,000 campaign total in one year; in October of last year, the American Heart Association recognized him for his service by presenting him an AHA Volunteer Award; he is also a supporter of the Salvation Army; and

WHEREAS, A realtor for many years, he was awarded the first "Realtor of the Year" award in 1996; in the real estate community, Newt is recognized as a professional who also exhibits his Christian character in his day to day contact with the people he serves; and

WHEREAS, Newt Metzger is most grateful for the love and companionship of his wife of forty-eight years, Ruth Metzger; she is a member of the Wesley Choir and was president of its first Methodist Women's organization; they have been blessed with two sons, Jon and Jim; the Metzger family has been a strong force behind the success of Wesley Church in all aspects - from its building programs, to its Sunday School programs, to its music ministry and its community outreach programs; and

WHEREAS, Sunday, May 6th has been designated as "*Newt Metzger Day*" at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church; in connection with the groundbreaking of the newest building program, a ceremony will be held to honor Mr. Metzger's half a century of service to Wesley and to the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Seekers Sunday School Class have helped coordinate the celebration; as the congregation prepares to break ground on a new addition, the Seekers Class "felt it only fitting to recognize a man who helped launch this congregation over 40 years ago," said Cleaston Runion, class president; other Sunday School Classes have joined in the celebration and will make donations to the new Building Fund in Newt's honor; and

WHEREAS, Newt Metzger is the last surviving member of Wesley's first Building Committee, which consisted of the late Oscar Maples, Jim McAmis, Owen Swafford, Carl Cavitt, and Clarence Carroll; the late Floyd Humphrey served as chairman; "In sponsoring this celebration, we also pay honor to the memory of the other men who served with Newt; Each of these men contributed a great deal to the history and growth of our church," said Runion; Mayor Tom Rowland, a Seekers Class member, will officially proclaim "Newt Metzger Day in the City of Cleveland for May 6, 2001."; and

WHEREAS, As this General Assembly witnesses the groundbreaking and expansion at Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, it is with grateful hearts that we recognize the vision, hard work and faithfulness of Newt Metzger; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby designate the 6th of May, 2001 as "Newt Metzger Day" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we commend Mr. Metzger for his honorable and astute service to his family, community, and the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.